

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR, US

SUBJECT: GOVERNORS EXCHANGE AND IV PROGRAM

1. SOVIET EMBASSY PRESS COUNSELOR INQUIRED INFORMALLY ABOUT THE CURRENT STATUS OF LONG-STANDING INVITATIONS TO SOVIET GOVERNORS AND TO PARTY FIRST SECRETARIES OF MEDIUM-SIZE CITIES TO VISIT THE US DURING 1976. DEPARTMENT OFFICER REPLIED THAT, IN VIEW OF THE DEMANDS OF THIS YEAR'S ELECTION CAMPAIGN ON THE US GOVERNORS AND THEIR GENERALLY HEAVY SCHEDULE DURING THE FIRST FEW MONTHS OF THE YEAR, IT WOULD PROBABLY BE DIFFICULT TO ORGANIZE A VISIT BY THE SOVIET GOVERNORS BEFORE SPRING 1977.

2. WE ALSO TOLD KAMENEV THAT INVITATION TO PARTY FIRST SECRETARIES (EMBASSY'S AIDE-MEMOIRE OF DECEMBER 2, 1975) STILL STANDS AND THAT SUCH A VISIT CAN TAKE PLACE IN 1976 OR 1977. HOWEVER, SINCE AMERICAN CITY POLITICAL LEADERS WILL BE EXTREMELY BUSY DURING THIS YEAR'S ELECTION CAMPAIGN, WE RECOMMENDED THAT THE SOVIET PARTY FIRST SECRETARIES COME EITHER BEFORE SEPTEMBER (WHICH AS A PRACTICAL MAT-
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TER WOULD PROBABLY BE DIFFICULT) OR PREFERABLY AFTER THE

ACTUAL CAMPAIGN. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO FOLLOW UP WITH MFA.

3. WE WILL GET BACK TO KAMENEV ON THE GOVERNORS VISIT
ONCE WE HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO DISCUSS THE VISIT MORE
THOROUGHLY WITH THE NATIONAL GOVERNORS CONFERENCE. KISSINGER

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